

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE COUNCIL'S REPORT

1. The one hundredth and first meeting of the Fort George G. Meade Retiree Council was held at building 2234 Huber Road, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, at 9:00 a.m. on 30 September 2006. In accordance with AR 600-8-7, this report of the meeting is submitted:

a. The following members were present:
COL Bert L. Rice, USA Ret (Chairman)
SGM Kenneth L. McCall Sr., USA Ret (Co-Chairman)
COL Erwin A. Burtnick, USA Ret
LTC Louis F. Schneider, USA Ret
LtCdr Sam L. Bridwell, Sr., USN Ret (Western Maryland)
MAJ Edward Calhoon, USA Ret
MAJ William S. Heath, USA Ret
CW2 Ricky Godbolt, USA Ret
CSM Barry Decker, USA Ret (APG)
CSM Sandra Matlock-Williams, USA Ret
SGM J. Paul Funk, USA Ret
SGM James Gilbert, USA Ret
MSG Barbara Barron, USA Ret
MSGt Charles E. Plummer, USAF Ret
SFC James Wafer, USA Ret
SSG Walter B. Hollman, USA Ret
Mrs Catherine Eckford
Mrs Cecille Morse

2. The meeting was called to order with a welcome from COL Rice who gave the invocation that included a prayer for SFC Carlo DePorto, USA Ret, who was recently hospitalized. This was followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance led by SGM McCall.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: COL Rice reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2006. LtCdr Bridwell identified an error in paragraph 9 that should indicate Fort Ritchie is holding it's RAD on 9 October 2006. The minutes were accepted with correction. COL Rice also addressed the recent signing of the Defense Appropriations bill stating that many items may impact military retirees both positively and negatively. He suggested that all become familiar with same citing, the need to be able to provide counsel to fellow retirees. Additionally, COL Rice also expressed the need for the Council to develop a list of issues for submittal to the Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council to address and if you have concerns, bring them to

the 9 December 2006 meeting. COL Rice introduced a new member to the Council, CSM Matlock-Williams. The following guests were also introduced:

a. COL Kenneth O. McCreedy, Installation Commander, who thanked the Council for their continuous service and for the important role they play in the installation's mission. He also remarked on the following:

(1) Gate closures - Because a traffic study did not indicate the DOD standard of 300 cars per hour of entry, etc., was being met, the Security force had to be realigned resulting in the reduction of operating hours at some gates to include closure on weekends and holidays. Some entry policies have been revised which allows ease of entry into the installation.

(2) Lease Use Program - Solicitations for bids to construct an administrative office complex, two (2) 18 hole golf courses and construction to meet the requirements of BRAC, were made and are now under review.

(3) Privatization - Will have others upgraded, operating and maintaining water and wastewater facilities; burying utility lines; and making improvement to routes 175 and 198.

(4) Freedom Inn Dining Facility - Is participating in the Connelly Award Competition and the installation is vying for honors in the Army Community of Excellence competition.

(5) Fort Meade's 90th Anniversary Celebration - As a prelude to its 100th year celebration, COL McCreedy will be hosting a 90th Anniversary gala at Club Meade on 26 January 2007. Displays will be set up in various rooms depicting scenes and personnel in uniform from WWI, WWII, Korean War and the Vietnam War. The installation will be partnering with an outside entity to co-host this event. More on this subject will be announced at a later date.

(6) Veterans History Project - COL McCreedy commented on this project sponsored by the Library of Congress and on the training session conducted by Kathy Abey, Office of Congressman Wayne T. Gilchrest's office, and presented to a group of volunteers that will be capturing the stories that military retirees and veterans have to share with our nation. (With WWII veterans passing away at the rate of 1800 per day and Korean War veterans at 1100 per day, time is of the essence in moving ahead with this project. And as Ms Jaimie Miller, a former teacher at Mac Arthur Middle School on Fort Meade, has always quoted: "When a veteran dies, a library closes." The volunteers work is cutout for them.)

(7) VA Clinic at Fort Meade - Discussion is underway as is a study to determine the feasibility of establishing a West County VA Clinic at Fort Meade. Since the discussion is in its infancy, there is not too much to report at this time.

b. Ms Katherine Abey, Veterans History Project, was scheduled to attend today's meeting, but could not because of her attending a funeral. She was scheduled to discuss her participation in the 27 October 2006 RAD event. She will be donating a door prize.

c. Mr. Frank Macias, Fort Meade Commissary, thanked the retired military community for their support of the recent Case Lot sale and reported that a sales record was set and applauded all who helped to make it an event to be remembered. (COL McCreedy remarked on an accessibility problem at the Pavilion and that they are working to correct prior to the next event there.) Mr. Macias also remarked on the following:

(1) The commissary is suffering another shortage of cashiers and that an all out effort to recruit same is underway.

(2) Remarks by Council members:

(a) CW2 Godbolt offered kudos to commissary employee D. Mountain for the personal service that was rendered.

(b) SGM Gilbert commented on the efficient manner in which the self-checkout registers are being managed.

(c) SGM McCall remarked on the Early Bird program (7am to 9am) and that many appeared to be taking advantage of the early shopping hours. (Mr. Macias stated that it has been extremely successful.)

d. Ms. Katherine Calhoon, wife of council member MAJ Calhoon, made a presentation in behalf of the National Parkinson Foundation which was very informative.

4. RSO REMARKS: Mr. Ashley reported on the following:

a. Relocation concerns that is affecting the operations of offices within building 2234 Huber Road.

b. Approval has been granted to dedicate building 2234 as the "Max J. Beilke Human Resource Center". Dedication preparations are underway.

c. The passing of BG Gerald (Jed) Brown, USA Ret and former chairman of our council. (Prayers were asked for his family.)

d. Distribution of the 2006 edition of the handbook

for Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents, were made available to council members at the request of SGM McCall who thanked Mr. Ashley for his follow through on this issue.

e. Introduced the new RSO website at www.ftmeade.army.mil/rsoindex.htm. The meeting minutes can be found there as well as other pertinent information.

f. Retiree Appreciation Day, 27 Oct 06 - On track to start at 8:30am, ending at 4:00pm. The coordinator for our host, Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center, CPT J. Dixon, was introduced. Handouts were distributed which outlined the day's events and included:

(1) A list of veteran service organizations and installation support activities that had been invited to the event.

(2) A list of the various medical clinics and other medical assets that would be available.

(3) A list of logistical requirements.

(4) Location and title of the various classroom presentations that would be made.

(5) Impact on service to their customers - minimal.

(6) Signs, banners, placards and press releases have been coordinated.

(7) Luncheon for attendees will be at the new Freedom Inn Dining Facility and a shuttle bus will be provided for transporting attendees to and from same.

(8) Questions and answers:

- Having this on a Friday, may limit participation at both the health fair and evening social. Response - We will have to monitor closely and adjust for future events.

- Will flu shots be available? Unknown at this time, but efforts to obtain the vaccine are underway.

- If the "center" will be operating on a normal schedule, will parking be affected? It is not known at this time, but additional parking is available across Llewellyn Ave in front of Kimbrough.

- Will you have "round-robin" type classes? Yes, and pamphlets describing same as well as other information will be given to participants upon their arrival.

- Where will participants enter the facility? Hopefully, at the main entrance where the refreshments will be set up. Signs will be posted directing attendees to the area, both on and off post.

- Paying for the luncheon - You will pay as you eat (\$3.55) per person. For the social at Club Meade, you

were asked to make payment at the time you made the reservation to attend. Paying at the door will be limited. NOTE: CSM Decker reported on how APG manages their RAD luncheon and coordination effected.

- Concern for some attendees not being able to carry their trays. Council members will be available to assist those in need of such service.

- For the social, will there be an alternative to the pork meal? Yes, and will be available.

- Were will the displays, etc., be set up? In Kimbrough's event center.

- Can there be "golf carts" available to transport those in need of same, to the entrance? Yes, it has already been taken care of.

(9) CPT Dixon was applauded for her outstanding presentation and the support that Kimbrough is providing this event.

NOTE: SGM McCall asked that those that may be able to act as a guide/aide, to provide their names to him and plan to arrive at Kimbrough by 8:00am, 27 October 2006, so they may receive an orientation on the day's events and the assistance that they will provide.

g. COL Bernard Cullen, USA Ret, Director of Human Resources, reported on the renovations being made to building 2234, the time frame for completion and the additional occupants for same. COL McCreedy provided additional comments.

5. OLD BUSINESS: Addressed during the RSO's remarks.

6. NEW BUSINESS: None

7. APG UPDATE: CSM Decker reported that COL Shadle could not attend and remarked on the following:

a. Their RAD will be held on 21 October 2006, and that a representative from the National Association of Uniform Services would be the guest speaker. Also, a musical salute would be rendered; lunch would be served at the APG dining facility, a health fair would be available and that notification is being made via flyers, installation newspaper, etc.

b. Remarked on how BRAC is beginning to impact the installation.

8. WESTERN MARYLAND UPDATE: LtCdr Bridwell reported on the following:

a. The RAD for Carlisle Barracks was excellent.

b. The RAD for Fort Dietrick is scheduled for 4 October 2006 and the speakers will be COL Chambers and SGM Brussels.

9. KIMBROUGH ADVISORY COUNCIL: No report rendered. COL Edward Uemura was away on business.

10. FORT MEADE COMMISSARY COUNCIL: SGM Funk had nothing to add to Mr. Macias' remarks.

11. ARMY FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD: Mrs Morse reported that a three (3) day symposium was conducted and was attended by many teenagers, young soldiers, family members and others. Attendees provided many challenges for the various panel. COL McCreedy stated that he was impressed with the reports that he received.

12. CO-CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS: SGM McCall addressed the following:

a. The importance of having Council members involved in the Veterans History Project and assisting in identifying candidates for same and helping to conduct the interviews.

b. The hazards that skateboarders present to themselves and to motorists when they practice their craft near the Bowling Alley, skating into the street, often falling. They have created a driving hazard for motorists departing the commissary, especially the seasoned drivers.

c. The Maryland tax initiative for 2007.

d. Council's meeting schedule:

Saturday, 9 December 2006 (Submit items for the US Army Chief of Staff Retiree Council to addresses; critique 27 October 2006 RAD event; select a tentative date for the 2007 RAD event; address participation in the 90th anniversary celebration, scheduled for 26 Jan 07.)

Saturday, 3 March 2007 (Develop a list of projects or concerns that the Council can either participate in or address for the Installation Commander.)

Saturday, 2 June 2007 (Plan for the 2007 RAD)

Saturday, 29 September 2007 (Tentative. May have to hold earlier - dependent on 2007 RAD date.)

Saturday, 1 December 2007 (tentative)

13. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:

a. COL Burtnick reported on BRAC issues and how they affect the State; additional information on the tax initiative for Maryland military retirees; the 24 Oct 06 meeting of the Maryland Veterans Commission at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

b. SGM McCall extended his appreciation to the Council and to Mr. Ashley and his staff for a job well done and for them to keep up the good work. He thanked COL McCreedy and his staff for the outstanding support provided to the retired military community.

14. The meeting adjourned at 10:48am with a reminder that the next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Saturday, 9:00am, 9 December 2006, at 2234 Huber Road, Fort Meade.

BERT L. RICE
COL, USA Ret
Chairman, Fort Meade
Meade
Retiree Council

KENNETH L. MCCALL, SR.
SGM, USA Ret
Co-Chairman, Fort
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